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67097-360; EH-10974

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Otero et al.  
Serial No.: 10/763,611 Art Unit: 3745  
Filed: 01/23/2004 Examiner: Verdier, Christopher M.  
Title: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REDUCING  
OPERATING STRESS IN A TURBINE BLADE AND THE  
LIKE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

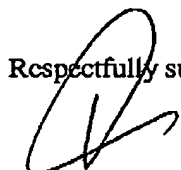
**ELECTION  
ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action of March 20, 2006, applicant confirms the original election of Invention II, Claims 17-32. In addition, and in response to the election of species requirement, applicant elects Group IIb, Claims 25-32. It is submitted that Claims 17-24 should be examined with Claims 25-32, in particular given the dependent claims in the elected group. Thus, applicant would ask for reconsideration. However, applicant does elect Claims 25-32. Examination on the merits is now requested.

Fees in the amount of \$120.00 for a one-month extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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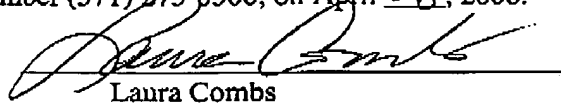
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Dated: April , 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on April 28, 2006.

  
Laura Combs